



Stormwater Best Management Practices Fact Sheet Series

Lawn Care

How does gardening lead to stormwater pollution?

- Chemicals—fertilizers and pesticides from your yard may be carried into the storm drain. These chemicals can end up in the local waters and are harmful to humans and wildlife



- Yard Clippings—yard clippings can clog a storm drain or, when they reach a waterbody, can decompose, taking oxygen away from fish and other wildlife
- Sediments—soil from home gardens that is washed down the storm drain harms aquatic wildlife, clogging a fish's gills or making it difficult to find water that is deep enough to lay eggs
- Overwatering—excessive watering of lawns leads to increased runoff carrying herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, and oil from the streets to the storm drain and into the local waters. These pollutants may contaminate the water and increase public and environmental health risks

What can you do to prevent pollution?

- Use natural alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers
- Properly store or dispose of unwanted chemicals to avoid seepage into rainwater
- Don't overwater your lawn or garden
- Plant grass or other rapid-growth vegetative covers to prevent soil erosion
- Sweep excess lawn clippings or other yard wastes and dispose of properly
- Don't hose soil or yard clippings into the storm drain



For additional information or questions, please contact:

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